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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Decrease in Twelve Metro Areas

Much of Downstate still suffering job losses

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	July 2016	July 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.2%	5.2%	0.0
Carbondale-Marion	6.0%	6.2%	-0.2
Champaign-Urbana	5.1%	5.5%	-0.4
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.6%	6.2%	-0.6
Danville	7.1%	7.4%	-0.3
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	5.4%	0.2
Decatur	6.7%	7.8%	-1.1
Elgin	5.1%	5.8%	-0.7
Kankakee	6.1%	6.8%	-0.7
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.8%	5.3%	-0.5
Peoria	6.3%	6.8%	-0.5
Rockford	6.2%	7.8%	-1.6
Springfield	4.7%	5.3%	-0.6
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.7%	6.4%	-0.7
Illinois Statewide	5.6%	6.2%	-0.6

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Twelve of Illinois' metropolitan (metro) areas experienced decreases in their over-the-year unemployment rate and eight of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

"Our job growth rate is still half that of the rest of the country," said IDES Director Jeff Mays. "Most of our job growth is concentrated primarily in the northeast corner of the state while downstate job growth continues to lag."

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metro areas, in which the largest increases were seen in: Elgin (+2.1 percent, +5,300), Rockford (+1.9 percent, +2,900), and Lake-Kenosha (+1.6 percent, +6,800). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.2 percent or +44,900). Illinois businesses lost jobs in five metro areas including Carbondale-Marion (-2.5 percent, -1,400), the Quad Cities (-2.3 percent, -4,200), and Decatur (-1.5 percent, -800). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas were:

Retail Trade (nine of 14), Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities (nine of 14), Education and Health Services (eight of 14), Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14), and Government (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares July 2016 with July 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.6 percent in July 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent in July 2016 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

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Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – July 2016

Metropolitan Area	July 2016*	July 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	91,500	92,800	-1,300
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,400	56,800	-1,400
Champaign-Urbana MSA	106,500	105,000	500
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,726,800	3,681,900	44,900
Danville MSA	29,200	29,100	100
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	181,100	185,300	-4,200
Decatur MSA	51,000	51,800	-800
Elgin Metro Division	261,200	255,900	5,300
Kankakee MSA	44,300	44,300	-0-
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	421,000	414,200	6,800
Peoria MSA	178,000	179,100	-1,100
Rockford MSA	155,400	152,500	2,900
Springfield MSA	114,600	113,400	1,200
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	233,000	232,500	500
Illinois Statewide	6,029,900	5,986,800	43,100

*Preliminary **Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	July 2016	July 2015	Over- the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA			
DeWitt County	5.3%	5.7%	-0.4
McLean County	5.2%	5.2%	0.0
Peoria MSA			
Marshall County	6.2%	6.9%	-0.7
Peoria County	6.6%	7.2%	-0.6
Stark County	6.6%	6.2%	0.4
Tazewell County	6.2%	6.6%	-0.4
Woodford County	5.2%	5.3%	-0.1
Ottawa-Streator Area	6.2%	6.8%	-0.6
Bureau County	5.8%	6.4%	-0.6
LaSalle County	6.3%	6.9%	-0.6
Putnam County	5.5%	6.2%	-0.7
Galesburg Area	5.7%	6.2%	-0.5
Knox County	5.7%	6.2%	-0.5
Warren County	5.4%	5.7%	-0.3
Cities			
Bloomington City	5.4%	5.3%	0.1
Galesburg City	6.1%	6.6%	-0.5
Normal City	5.2%	5.3%	-0.1
Pekin City	7.4%	8.2%	-0.8
Peoria City	6.9%	7.4%	-0.5
Counties			
Fulton County	7.8%	8.1%	-0.3
Henderson County	5.3%	5.8%	-0.5
Henry County	5.5%	6.1%	-0.6
Livingston County	5.2%	5.9%	-0.7
Logan County	5.3%	5.8%	-0.5
Mason County	7.3%	7.8%	-0.5

Pontiac Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.2 percent in July 2016 from 5.9 percent in July 2015. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment was unchanged at 14,000. Manufacturing (+200) and Financial Activities (+50) had the largest increases while the Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-75), Educational-Health Services (-50), and Leisure-Hospitality (-50) sectors had the largest declines from a year ago.

Note:

Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 8,400 positions in July and approximately 85 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

Bloomington MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2 percent in July 2016 when compared to July 2015. There were an estimated 5,100 unemployed people in the labor force in July 2016.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment declined by (-1,300). Jobs gains were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+500), Financial Activities (+300), Professional and Business Services (+300), Other Services (+100), and Educational and Health Services (+100). Declines were reported in Manufacturing (-1,200), Retail Trade (-500), Construction (-500), and Government (-400). All other major industry sectors were little changed compared to a year ago.

Peoria MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.3 percent in July 2016 from 6.8 percent in July 2015. There were an estimated 11,900 unemployed people in the labor force in July 2016.

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by (-1,100) compared to July 2015. Job gains were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300) and Retail Trade (+800). Declines were reported in Manufacturing (-1,400), Educational and Health Services (-700), Professional and Business Services (-500), Government (-300), Construction (-100), Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-100), and Financial Activities (-100).

Ottawa-Streator Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.2 percent in July 2016 from 6.8 percent in July 2015. The last time the July rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.4 percent. Nonfarm payrolls held steady from a year ago. The largest gains occurred in Professional-Business Services (+100) and Information (+50). The Manufacturing (-200) and Educational-Health Services (-100) sectors had the largest employment declines over the year.

Galesburg Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.7 percent in July 2016 from 6.2 percent in July 2015. Nonfarm payroll employment was (+400) higher than last year. Job Gains were led by Educational-Health Services (+150), Leisure and Hospitality (+100), Government (+75), Retail (+50), Transportation-Warehousing (+50) and Other Services (+50). All other industry sectors were relatively stable compared to a year ago.